

FORTY NEGROES OFF FOR AFRICA WITH SAM

Stopping Here on Their Way
From Oklahoma and
Via Galveston.

SINGING HYMNS ON SHIP

All Enthusiastic Over Promises
of Wealth on the Gold
Coast.

A 318 foot steamship, formerly the *Cyberia* of the Minsons Line, can be regarded as an earnest of Chief Sam's intent to take American negroes to the gold coast of Africa, give them lots of land to farm and win huge profits for them by shipping their produce to the markets of the world. It may be said that the project is well under way.

The vessel has been bought and paid for and now lies in Beard's yacht basin, Erie Basin, with forty negro men and women on board. They are delegates sent from Oklahoma to go with the ship to Galveston, where, according to Chief Sam, she will begin making trips to Africa with American negroes. All the delegates are stockholders in the Akim Trading Company, Ltd., organized by Chief Sam to further his "back to the African soil" movement. A share costs \$25 and entitles the owner to passage to Africa and all the land he can till. Chief Sam has been working on his scheme for two years among negroes, and 123 organizations have been formed, most of them in Oklahoma. Every member of each organization has bought one share of stock.

A SUN reporter went to Erie Basin yesterday to see Chief Sam. He found the *Cyberia*, which will soon be christened the *Liberia*, and Chief Sam had gone to Boston. The forty delegates were having a religious meeting in the dining saloon of the ship and were singing negro camp meeting hymns. Prof. W. H. Lewis, who said he is a Fiske College graduate, did the talking for the chief's adherents on board were Prof. Dorman and W. H. Hurst, an engineer and a graduate of Chicago University. The rest of the men were Oklahoma farmers. About fifteen of the delegates are women. They have sold their farms in Oklahoma, packed their goods and are ready to go to Africa for the rest of their lives. They expect to build model cities, have large farms, and establish forms of government of their own. They appeared to be heart and soul in the scheme.

Sam is a Real Ashante Chief.

"Chief Sam is an African chief," said Prof. Lewis, "and is the head of one of the twelve tribes of Ashante, which lies on the northern coast of the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa, between Dahomey and the Ivory Coast. Chief Sam presides over the tribe."

Two years ago Dr. Dorman and Prof. J. P. Laddell of Maitse, Okla., wrote to him, asking about the possibilities in that country for American colored people. After due deliberation in his council the chief decided to invite the black men of America back to his home. So on his next trip to New York he went to Oklahoma and announced that he had set aside sixty-four square miles for American negroes.

He organized the company, started the *African Pioneer* to give publicity to his scheme and began to sell stock to those who wanted to go to Africa. The company is now capitalized at \$1,000,000 and 6,300 men and women, mostly Southern negroes, have bought shares and are ready to go as soon as the chief's affairs are in readiness. Galveston will be the *Liberia's* American port when the trips begin.

None but Negroes In It.

Prof. Lewis said that the chief expects to take over farmers, mechanics of all sorts and other professionals. Among the stockholders are doctors, engineers, school teachers, and the Liberia will have a black crew from cabin boy to captain. Coco, goat skins, rubber, mahogany and teak feathers are the chief products they hope to market. The chief told them that mahogany trees grow ten feet thick and the feet in Ashante. Before the *Liberia* departure for its first trip it will be christened by a negro girl with oil paint from the Gold Coast. Prof. Lewis said the *Cyberia* cost \$200,000, but officials of the line announced on February 1 that the price was just about half that amount.

The *African Pioneer* in its last issue published an article by M. A. Sorrell, secretary of the Emigration Club, which said in part:

"It was in the early spring of 1913 when Chief Sam arrived in New York, and there he readily saw the condition of the colored people of the United States. The chief said he wanted his people to unite in a union of confidence and Christian love, and start to Africa free from our own ship. The chief being Christian was plainly and simply advised when he came to Oklahoma. He taught the poor and humble of his race to lay out in the country, thinly settled rock hills and timbered valleys, known as Maitse, Oklahoma."

Now He Can't Keep Promises.

While the chief's followers are writing about him like the above others have written in a different vein, Duse Moore, editor of the *Africa Times* and *Universal Review*, says:

"The name of Alfred Sam as a chief is unknown to me. All hands that British colony are tribal lands and can neither be given away nor sold by the chiefs, and there is no part of the colony where six to four acres will be available for each of 1200 persons. The country is covered with dense forests. I am sure that even the British Government allowed them to have their own towns it would not permit them to have any form of government. It would be disastrous if these people were induced to go to Africa and find themselves stranded."

J. Edmonstone Barnes, once Minister of Public Works of Liberia, wrote to the *New York Age*:

"With the exception of the Republic of Liberia, which is a sovereign black State, no other part of Africa is open to migration by colored folk, because the country has been divided up by European Governments, and they do not allow immigrants to go there."

A letter was printed in THE SUN on February 6 from an Englishman on the Gold Coast, who said that A. C. Sam, passing as a chief of the Gold Coast colony, is wanted by the police there because he has managed to persuade a number of natives to go to his Akim Trading Company, who say that Sam's pretensions about enormous concessions of territory are false; that no tribe or chief can set aside a foot of ground without the permission of the British Governor, who has not given permission.

Crescent Team Gets Revenge.

The Crescent Athletic Club basketball team squared accounts with the Tarrylows, M. C. A. five in the Crescent A. C. clubhouse last night. Not long ago the Tarrylows, composed of former Williams College cracks, defeated the Crescents to 22, but last night the Brooklones won, 31 to 26, although the visitors were 5 to 10 at the end of the first half. The latter did star work for the Crescents. They scored from foul fifteen times in seventeen attempts.

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